AUCHMANNOCH, 543308

[VR 1900/01 - VR 1909/1910 Prop: Robert Mitchell Campbell of Auchmannoch. Tenant: James Robertson (Towans)

VR 1910/11 - VR 1916/17 Prop: R M Campbell, who died 19.2.1917. Tenant: William Duncan, gamekeeper.

VR 1917/18 Prop: T.l. R M Campbell. Tenant: William Duncan

VR 1918/19 - [VR 1941/42} Prop: Major Herbert Robin Cayzer, who became Lord Rotherwick in 1939, and † 16.3.1958. Tenant: William Duncan

VR 1973/74 Prop: R G McIntyre. Self for occupiers.

William Duncan appears also to have been tenant of some farms on the estate, including Muirhead and High Braes. So he may not have lived in Auchmannoch. certainly it is, for a 'mansion house', very lowly rated.

LADY'S WELL, 54553088

CATRINE BANK See DALDORCH

CATRINE HOUSE, 518251

Davis, 203-204 The mansion house built for Lt/Col Matthew Stewart, between 1819 and 1820, replaced Old Catrine House as the Stewart family residence. This new house was extensively altered and added to in 1889 for Arthur Campbell in a harled English Manorial idiom. The whole mansion was demolished, due to dry rot infestation, after 1945.

KS 31.5.1890 Firstly called 'Goat House', after nearby public house of that name. Built c.1827 by Dugald Stewart, and additions and alterations 1889 for Arthur Campbell.

ASH, F 6.10.1899, 3h c.1827. Dugald Stewart †1828.

ACC, Social Welfare Committee, 4.7.1946, 1037

Proposed use as Home for Old Folks. Site visit. "In view of the condition of the house, the sub-committee cannot recommend its purchase."

LODGE

Davis, 204 A lodge with an attractive pedimented portico, evidently dating from c.1820, still survives, as do plain stable offices and the remains of a walled garden.

ACC Planning, 5286 May 1948. Alterations, Gate Lodge, Catrine, for J.E. Hannah.

DALDORCH [formerly CATRINE BANK]

List 13 Built 1801 as dower house of Sorn; original building simple 2 storey 3 sash window facade, centre porch; Victorian wing added forming present T-shape mansion, semi-Italianate in characterl stands in wooded policies. B

Sas Abr 8349 of 1807: 55.160 1806 Feu Con between Quintin Johnston, writer, Ayr and Archibald Buchanan of Catrine Bank, over lands of Daldorch (ues).

KS, Sa 8.7.1871, 3h Hugh Howie Aird of Crossflat † at Daldorch 3.7.1871.

KS, Sa 9.2.1924, 5b A daughter of Archibald Buchanan of Daldorch was wife of Dr Patrick Keith, and so closely related to Woodrow Wilson's maternal grandmother.

AA, Th 21.5.1891, 5c Colonel J.R. and Mrs Fairlie, who have been at Daldorch, for about 10 years, are moving to Kensal Tower.

AA, CO 3/10/5/27, YSFE 22.6.1967

Proposed acquisition for teaching Agriculture City & Guilds through Kilmarnock Technical College. Estate includes farms of Daldorch and High Logan. Trustees will sell at £37,500.

AA, Co 3/10/5/27, GPC 15.9.1967 Acquisition not sanctioned by Secretary of State.

AA, CO 3/10/5/28,YSFE 21.12.1967

Discussion of proposed regional farm centre, for south-west Scotland, offering City & Guilds courses, &c. To seek permission from Secretary of State to acquire Daldorch estate.

AP, F 3.8.1979, 50-51 Photos. Presently being converted by Teen Mission International.

Davis, 1991, 230 Decaying for some years and now on the verge of dereliction, Daldorch consists of a modest late-Georgian house of 1801 or 1812 (for Archibald Buchanan) which was later extended with the addition of a larger Victorian wing. The total effect is very pleasing despite the deteriorating condition of the house.

nr † London 19.5.1945, William Hobart Campbell, of shipping firm of John M Campbell & Son, Glasgow. Lived at Daldorch

STABLES

List 14 Symmetrical courtyard range; centre raised pedimented arched opening. C.

Davis, 1991, 230 The fine Georgian-style stables, with pedimented centre arch, have been converted to form a residence which has recently been used as the headquarters of Teen Challenge, a Christian organization.

DALGAIN see SORN

GILMILNSCROFT, 557255

Davis, 1991, 266-268 [In part, C17: 1682 fire surround in one bedroom, but this is not in original place. C17 house thought to be T-plan. 1708 scheme of remodelling, creating L-plan. 1708 wing raised in C18, and house generally restructured. Substantial addition in 1830s, and thoroughly remodelled in 1888. Acquired c.1968 by David Somervell, who remodelled house to his own designs, and pulled down most of the C19 additions]

CO 3/12/3/37 NBC 15.1.1909 Alterations, for Sir Henry Farquhar. [At one time J K Hunter was acting for Sir Henry in connection with Water District Schemes in and around Gilmilnscroft. Refs not available].

AA, Th 7.1.1960, 11d Major David Ross, Deasholm, Troon. Has died - previously lived at Gilmilnscroft. Was MFH, c.1953.

AA, CO 3/18/2/20 B6813 Change of use to school, for Andrew Stuart Robertson, CE, with site plan by **Francis B Dunbar**, May 1961. Approved May 1961 and completed by July 1963.

AA, CO 3/10/5/25, GPC 18.6.1965 Council advised that the Gilmilnscroft Boarding School for Boys (Mr A S Robertson) is for sale.

AA, CO 3/10/5/25, GPC 28.6.1965 "The living accommodation is provided in a former mansion and four new classrooms and a science room have been provided outwith the main building." No interest in acquiring.

LODGE, 552254

ACC Planning, A4858 June 1952. Addition; for David Ross.

GLENLOGAN

List 12 Restored farmhouse; limewashed cement and stone, black painted dressings; centre 2 storey and attic dormers, stone pedimented columned porch flanked by triple windows, single sashes above; lower gabled wings now part of house, originally byres; to rear, square staircase projection. B.

Davis, 1991, 273 Paterson informs us that 'according to tradition the Dalgain family (i.e., the Mitchells of Dalgain) had their residence in a tower on this property, which was partly in existence about the middle of last century' (i.e., c.1750) Soon after 1700 the small estate of Burnhead, as Glenlogan wa s then known, was sold to Logan of Logan. On Hugh

Logan's death in 1802, it was purchased by George Ranken of Whitehill, who renamed it Glenlogan in memory of Logan.
In general appearance, Glenlogan House is a small laird's house with several late 18th or early 19th century flourishes. It is flanked by a symmetrical arrangement of farm wings. It is said to date from the 17th century with 18th century additions.

MCN, Sa 8.8.1908, 4b — Douglas Baird, Esq., has returned to Glenlogan for the shooting season. [J Douglas Baird, tenant, died at Cap Martin, France, 17 Feb 1909]

Borland, 270 — "John Graeme [Stephen, of the shipbuilding family] was still a director, but he was spending more time at his home of Glenlogan … Always a reluctant shipbuilder, he now turned his talents to farming and engineering innovations. He designed and built a machine for cutting and picking up silage; a machine that is still in use today. Even back in the 1930s he had designed a hydraulic cold-bending machine for ship frames; before then the frames had required a furnace to heat them before bending, a very time consuming and labour intensive operation. The war years had ruined the international yachting scene, but even so John Graeme maintained his interest and built a test tank for yachts in the grounds of Glenlogan.."

NETHER CATRINE HOUSE

List 23 — C18 in appearance, originally a rural laird's house; village of Catrine was subsequently built about. 2 storeys plus attic, south front (now) 3 bays, 4 bay rear. 2 building phases; the earlier formed a plain rectangular plan and gabled house presumably of 1682, the date of a panel on the rear wall. Pedimented entrance bay, with urns, added central on south front, probably in 3rd quarter of 18th Century, forming a T-plan house, most front windows altered then also, with raised flat margin; and consoled cills (single ground floor window enlarged c.1950); perhaps the wallheads were raised then too; main cornice to front relates to C18 work, though skewputts above and main cornice at rear are probably original. Stacks are C20, but include single wallhead stack at rear. Steep-pitched slightly bell-cast slate roof. Painted rubble and ashlar dressings. Assymetrical low flanking wings; east wing may be C18 and formerly contained a bakery (its door now partly blocked to form a window) now used as garage with big slapping; west wing probably dates from second half of C19, is longer and has corrugated sheeting to roof.
Inside the house retains much early work; stair is contained within added gable, many panelled timbered doors in architraves, stone basket-arched fireplace on east gable; cornice plasterwork; 2 niches in the 1st floor room to west.
Said to be the house in which Burns 'dinner'd wi a Lord' [The Vision], i.e. Lord Daer, when the house was occupied by Professor Dugald Stewart, though that claim is also made for Catrine House. The area to the south was originally open, before the railway embankment was built. B.

KS, 31.5.1890 [1682] — Has carved stone AA HR 1682. Supposed to be for Adam Aird of Nether Catrine. [This factlet is also in ASH, F 6.10.1899, 3h]

AA, Th 24.4.1806, 1c — To let, Professor Stewart's house at Catrine.
AA, Th 24.7.1806, 4b — To let, Professor Stewart's house at Catrine.

SORN CASTLE, 548269

List 3 — An ancient fabric to which a modern mansion has been added, finely situated on the crest of the precipitous bank of the river Ayr. It is

probable that the SW portion is an old keep, and that the NE portion is a later addition, the floors being on different levels; by this enlargement a great hall was obtained on the first floor; at about this time a parapet with ornamental corbelling was carried round the building. Refs: C&DA iii 200-201; Millar. B.

KS, Sa 17.5.1924, 8bcd
Tranter

Historic Keeps, XLII.

Sorn stands in a romantic situation on the steep north bank of the River Ayr less than two miles east of Catrine. The plan of the present extensive mansion is roughly rectangular, but of this only the southern half is old, and of that only the western end represents the original fortalice, although this is not at first sight apparent, owing to the later work all having been carried out in a similar style of building and in the same warm red sandstone. The early structure was a massively built square tower of at least C15 date and possible earlier. A panel on the west wall, not itself of any antiquity, bears the date 1409. This tower, of three storeys and a garret, has been extended eastwards, apparently in the C16, in the same style, more than doubling the accommodation. The corbelling, parapet and open rounds at the angles date from this period. The junction of these two parts is not very obvious outwardly, but it is quite plain internally, owing to the differences of floor levels. The crenellated parapet is supported on two courses of individual corbels placed chequerwise, and the walk is drained by the usual cannon-like spouts. The angles, where not affected by modern additions, are provided with open rounds for defence, and another half-round projects in the centre of the south front. An interesting feature is the manner in which the heads of the two upper east windows in the C16 addition have been let into the corbelling, as at Craufurdland Castle in the same county. Many of the windows have been enlarged, with oriels, balconies and so on added. The interior has, of course, been greatly altered and modernised. The old vaulted kitchen occupied the east end of the basement, and had its wide fire place in the very thick eastern wall. Also in this section, directly above, was the hall, provided with another great fireplace and a large garderobe in the south-east angle.

At an early date the lands of Sorn belonged to the family of Keith of Galston, but passed in 1406, by marriage of the heiress Janet de Keith, to the Hamiltons of Cadzow, ancestors of the Dukes of Hamilton. A branch of this family retained possession until another heiress carried Sorn to the Setons of Winton. It is recorded that King James VI had occasion to attend a wedding at Sorn Castle, and travelling from Glasgow across grim and forbidding moorland his horse sank deep in a bog, from which the monarch was only extricated with difficulty, leaving his unfortunate mount. The place is still known as King's Stables, from James's grim remark that this horse was truly stabled there. The shaken King is further reported to have declared at a nearby spring, since called the King's Well, that 'were he to play a trick with the Devil, he would send him to a bridal at Sorn in the middle of winter!'.

In the unhappy religious troubles of Charles II's reign, Sorn Castle was garrisoned by Government troops under a Lieutenant-General, to overawe the Covenanters. A troop of dragoons from here were responsible for the death of two local youths, allegedly at the instigation of'the curate', who suffered thereafter a 'rabbling' so that he died the following year. The 2nd Earl of Winton sold the property to the Earl of Loudoun about c.1680, and Sorn is famed as the home of the long-lived and spirited Countess of Loudoun who reigned there for

50 years after her widowhood in the C18, attended by servants almost as old as herself, dying only a month or two before her centenary. She set an example to other lairds in tree-planting, road making and moorland reclamation, the results of which are still to be seen in the property.

'Sorn Castle', undated sheet

The name Sorn comes from the Gaelic word for a projection referring to the site of the castle on a cliff jutting out into the River Ayr. The date when the original keep, now the south side of the house, was built is not known but was probably in the late C14. It originally belonged to the Keiths of Galston, a branch of the Keiths, afterwards Earls Marischal. Jonetta Keith, heiress of the estate, married Sir David Hamilton, Lord Cadzow, ancestor of the ducal house of Hamilton, who died in 1392. Jonetta later married Sir Alexander Stewart of Darneley, but granted Sorn to her son Andrew Hamilton by a Charter confirmed under the Great Seal in 1406.

The Castle was added to at about the end of the C15 when the Inner Hall was built and a corbelling placed round the top to carry the parapet. It remained in the Hamilton family and in 1533 passed to Sir William Hamilton. He was a Senator of the College of Justice, Captain of Edinburgh Castle, and Lord High Treasurer to James V. His only child, Isobel, married the 7th Lord Seton, [brother of Mary Seton]. The children of this marriage were Robert, 1st Earl of Winton, Sir John Seton, Alexander 1st Earl of Dunfermline and Margaret, mother of the 1st Earl of Abercorn. In 'Famous Scottish Houses of the Lowlands', Hannan ... mentions a visit by James VI to Sorn on the occasion of the marriage of Isobel Seton, daughter of the 1st Earl of Winton to James Drummond, 1st Earl of Perth. However, the 1st Earl of Winton, who was also 8th Lord Seton, had not married Margaret Montgomerie, daughter of Hugh, 3rd Earl of Eglinton, until 1582 and Isabel was not born until 1593. The Earl was, in fact, a close friend of james VI and the actual date of the royal visit to Sorn was 1598 when the King was on his way on an expedition to the West Highlands. But, though 'his majesty's progress to Kintyre led him to spend a few days at the Castle of Sorn on the River Ayr, he apparently went no further west'. [Treasurer's Accounts, 1597-98, 87-93]

The 3rd Earl of Winton sold Sorn to the Loudoun family in 1630. In the reign of Charles II the castle was garrisoned by a troop of Dragoons to overawe the Covenanters and they killed two of the villagers.

In 1727 the Dowager Countess of Loudoun retired from the Courts of Queen Anne and George I and lived at Sorn for 50 years till she died aged 99. She took the gardening and some of the farming into her own hands and did much in tree planting, road making and reclaiming moorland. In 1777 James Boswell visited Sorn and dined with the Dowager Countess of Loudoun and Susanna Countess of Eglinton. Boswell walked in the gardens and went round the battlements. He commented 'the gardens were like those of Babylon. The lady was like a Peruvian Princess. I mean, all was like romance'.

The north front of the castle was added in 1793 and a further restoration carried out in 1865. In 1908, Thomas McIntyre, Lord Sorn's father, enlarged Sorn, opening up the same local quarry, just down the River Ayr, that had provided stone for the earlier buildings.

Boswell, 20 March 1777

'The place looked to me like enchantment. The old castle on the margin, or rather rocky bank, of the Water of Ayr, the gardens curiously formed, and the old lady of the Castle - 97'.

KS, Sa 17.5.1924, 8bcd

1795, Somervells

AA, Th 12.4.1821

Dalgain. For sale. c.1496 acres.

AO, Tu 13.5.1834, 1e — Dalgain Estate for sale. Lots of nice sites for residences.
KS, Sa 16.2.1924, 10f — James Somervell succeeded his father, Graham Somervell of Sorn, in 1881.
Plans, 1862-1910, seen by me at Watson Salmond & Gray, and now ?at CGA?, listed at end.
KS, Sa 17.5.1924, 8bcd — c.1904, T W McIntyre, shipowner
CO 3/12/3/37 NBC 8.4.1909 — Alterations, Sorn Castle, for T W McIntyre. H E Clifford, architect.
EG, 27.10.1914, 1260a — James Somervell of Sorn, in sequestration. 2nd dividend postponed.
EG, 29.1.1915, 164a — James Somervell of Sorn, in sequestration. 2nd dividend postponed. [Also in EG 27.7.1915, 1127a]
KS, Sa 17.5.1924, 8bcd — T W McIntyre died 1919, succeeded by son, Captain J Gordon McIntyre
KS, Sa 16.2.1924, 10f — James Somervell, ex of Sorn, has died, 79th year.
AP, F 12.4.1935, 16c — Garden open, 16.6.1935. Mrs T.W. McIntyre.
ACC Planning, 3004 — April 1945. Alterations, Sorn Castle, for Lord Sorn. **James Hay & Steel**, architects.
ACC Planning, 3166 — October 1945. Alterations, Sorn Castle, for Mrs McIntyre. No decision noted.

BURIAL GROUND, 54452663

CHAUFFEUR'S HOUSE

CO 3/12/3/37 NBC 23.9.1910 [Plans, June 1910, H E Clifford]

FORESTER'S HOUSE, near Hillhead Farm

CO 3/12/3/37 NBC 22.4.1910 [Plans, June 1910, H E Clifford]

GATELODGE [Is this CLEUCH COTTAGE, 549269

CO 3/12/3/37 NBC 8.10.1909 [Plans, Lodge nearest village, September 1909, H E Clifford]

GATELODGE, 545271

CO 3/12/3/37 NBC 1.7.1910 [Plans, arched Lodge, June 1910, H E Clifford]

GOLF CLUBHOUSE

CO 3/12/3/38 NBC 31.5.1912 for Sorn Castle Golf Club.
AA, Th 24.10.1912 — Formally opened last Saturday.

GOLF CLUB HOUSE (2)

ACC Planning, A1652 — November 1949. Alterations to form Golf Club House, for Lord Sorn.
ACC Planning, A2252 — April 1950. Electricity supply to Sorn Golf Club House, Hillhead Farm. SWSEB.

GROOM'S HOUSE

CO 3/12/3/38 NBC 3.11.1911 [Plans, H E Clifford]

KILNKNOWE COTTAGE, 548267

[Plans, August 1909, H E Clifford]

ACC Planning, A1651 — November 1949. Alterations, including installation of w.c., for Lord Sorn.
SVR 1967-68 — [Restoration?, for Robert McIntyre]

SAWMILL, 543270

SAWMILL COTTAGE, 543271

List 19 — Small Lodge in vermiculated masonry; gateway has pointed Gothic arches. C.

STABLES, 545270

List 4 — Classical courtyard range, c.1830-40; centre pedimented arched opening, coupled flat pilasters; 1 storey flanking wings and pavilions. B.

SORN CASTLE PLANS [Watson, Salmond & Gray collection. Now at CGA?]

Front Elevation	1862	William Railton	Basement Floor	1862	William Railton
Bedroom Floor	1862	William Railton	Principal Floor	17 Jany 1862	William Railton

Attic Floor	28 Novr 1862	[David Bryce]
North Elevation	28 Novr 1862	David Bryce
West Elevation	28 Novr 1862	David Bryce
South Elevation	28 Novr 1862	David Bryce
Bedroom Floor	28 Novr 1862	[David Bryce]
Basement Floor	28 Novr 1862	[David Bryce]
Principal Floor	28 Novr 1862	[David Bryce]
Attic Floor	9 Jany 1863	[David Bryce]
South Elevation	9 Jany 1863	[David Bryce]
Basement, Principal & Bedroom Floors	9 Jany 1863	[David Bryce]

Outer Hall, ceiling details	May 1909	H E Clifford
Sorn Castle	Dec 1908	H E Clifford
Sorn Castle	March 1909	H E Clifford
Sorn Castle	April 1909	H E Clifford
Kilnknowe Cotts, altns, August 1909		H E Clifford
Stables, existing and proposals, Feb 09		H E Clifford
Proposed Gate Lodge, June 1910		H E Clifford
Sketch for Gate Lodge		--
Gate Lodge	Sept 1909	H E Clifford
Forester's House	June 1910	H E Clifford
Undated, post war, sketch plans, 'Sorn Castle Survey		

© Rob Close 2026